

Applicant or Patentee: Marlin, Michael
Serial or Patent No.: _____ Atty. Dkt. No. _____
Filed or Issued: _____
For: A FLEXIBLE TOY

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (c)) – INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled A FLEXIBLE TOY, described in

- (☒) the specification filed herewith COILED LASSO 10/4/2000
() application serial no. _____, filed _____
() patent no. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below.

- (☒) no such person, concern or organization
() persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

* **NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)**

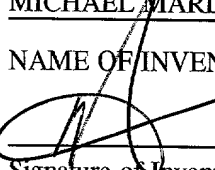
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I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate: (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

MICHAEL MARLIN
NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR NAME OF INVENTOR
 Signature of Inventor Signature of Inventor Signature of Inventor

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____

[illegible]



A FLEXIBLE COILED LASSO TOY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention discloses a flexible toy having multiple functions, which can be used to perform a number of tricks.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Over the years, a number of toys have been invented which have a flexible feature.

U.S. Patent No. 1,718,792 (F.G. Main) discloses a toy, including a metal strip coiled into a single plane at one end and having a handle secured to the other end thereof. The handle is arranged substantially tangential to the coiled portion of the strip and rests in the plane of the coiled portion. The coiled portion yields of its own weight to produce uncoiling and coiling movements upon the movement of the handle.

U.S. Patent No. 4,219,959 (Fleischer) discloses a toy adapted for pulling, stretching, and bouncing which includes two intertwined helically cut shells. More specifically, the toy comprises a first spherical shell cut into a helix, a second spherical shell cut into a helix, and wherein the two helixes are intertwined with each other so as to produce an unitary toy. The two shells may be both cut in either a clockwise or counterwise direction. Alternatively, one shell may be cut in a clockwise direction, and the other shell is cut in a counter-clockwise direction. Each spherical shell has a

diameter of between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The thickness of the helix may be between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

U.S. Patent No. 4,957,300 (Storry) discloses a recreational projectile, which in one embodiment displays rotational motion imparted when the projectile is thrown, similar to the motion of a turning screw. The recreational projectile comprises a strip of resilient plastic coiled into a compressible helix at an angle of helical advancement sufficient to prevent adjacent windings of the coiled strip from overlapping each other when in an uncompressed state.

U.S. Patent No. 5,857,217 (Hsueh) discloses a light reflection band device having a protection band, a flexible plate disposed on the protection band, a base band disposed on the flexible plate, a transparent layer disposed on the base band, and a liquid solution and a large number of light-reflection particles disposed between the transparent layer and base band. A periphery of the protection band, a periphery of the flexible plate, a periphery of the base band, and a periphery of the transparent layer are melted together. The object of the present invention is to provide a light reflection band device which can reflect light at night. Another object of the present invention is to provide a light reflection band device which can be placed on a wrist or a waist of the user..

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a retractable coiled toy, hereinafter referred to as the Slinger, is made of a material having a memory, which further has a handle integral with the coil or body of the toy. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the slinger is made out of polyurethane, a coiled steel, other plastics or some other material which has memory.

The present invention discloses a number of methods for using the coiled toy. The Slinger

can be used to wrap around the wrist, like a bracelet.

In another use, the slinger may be used as a lasso. In yet another use of the slinger,

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and further objects, characterizing features, details and advantages thereof will appear more clearly as the following description proceeds with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings given by way of non limiting example only illustrating a presently preferred specific embodiment of the invention and wherein

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the slinger toy;

Fig. 2 is another perspective view of the slinger toy;

Fig. 3 is a view of the slinger being slung around an arm or wrist;

Fig 4 is a view of the slinger after it has been slung around the wrist.

Fig. 5 is a close up view of the slinger after it has been slung around a wrist;

Fig. 6 is a close up view of the slinger after it has been slung around a broom handle;

Fig. 7 is a frontal view of the slinger being used as a clothing accessory around the ear;

Fig. 8 is a view of the slinger being used as a key ring;

Fig. 9 is a view of the slinger being used as a nose ornament;

Fig. 10 is a view of the slinger toy being used as a tag holder or ornament for a zipper;

Fig. 11 is a view of the slinger toy being used as an accessory to help secure a pony tail;

Fig. 12 is a view of the slinger toy being used as an ankle bracelet; and

Fig. 13 is a view of the slinger toy wrapped around a finger.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the figures, the slinger toy **1** is comprised of a single, unitary piece of material. The slinger **1** is preferably made out of polyurethane, metal, or some other material having memory. The slinger **1** preferably has a handle section **2** and a coiled section **3**. The coiled section **3** ranges in length from about three inches to about eight inches, with a length in the range about of $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches to about $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches being optimum. The coil **4** should range from about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to about one inch, and preferably $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The handle **2**, which is integral with the coiled section **3**, is preferably a straight piece, preferably ranging in length from about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The slinger toy may come in a number of different colors, and may be fluorescent. The toy may also be multi-colored. It is preferred that the colors be bright. Words or patterns may be printed along the length of the coils.

It is also preferred that the material from which the slinger toy is made is circular **20** in nature, such that if stretched out, the slinger toy would have the shape of a wire. More specifically, the material of the slinger toy has a circular width. This shape gives the toy more flexibility, and prevents the toy from scraping any of the objects it lassoes. While the material could be flat, the circular wire type material allows for ease of use of the toy.

The slinger toy **1** may be used in a number of different ways. In one instance, the slinger **1** may be used to catch or lasso items. This is accomplished by grasping the handle **2** with one hand, twirling the coiled section by the handle **2** so that the coiled section **3** expands outward, and then positioning the coiled section **3** such that a middle section **6** of the coiled section will wrap around the object being lassoed. The coiled section **3** should be twirled just once, or as many times as it will take to

~~enough times~~ to provide inertia.

The user of the slinger toy **1** may first try to catch his finger **7** by the slinger toy **1**. The user picks up the slinger toy **1**, grasps the handle **2** with one hand **8**, twirls the coiled section **3** by the handle **5** so that the coiled section **3** expands outward, and then positioning the coiled section **3** such that the middle section **6** will wrap around the object being lassoed. For example, a wrist **9** may be placed in the path of the coiled section **3** being twirled, such that when coiled section **3** connects with said wrist, said retractable coiled toy **1** forms a bracelet **10** about said wrist **9**. The wrist **9** is placed in the path of the retractable coiled toy **1** being twirled, such that when said coiled section **3** connects with the wrist **9**, said retractable coiled toy **1** forms a bracelet **10** about the wrist **9**.

The handle **2** is positioned angularly to the coiled section **3** as the coiled section **3** wraps around said object being lassoed, such that the coil section **3** is locked in around the object being lassoed by intertwining with itself. The retractable coiled toy can also be used to capture items in the air, by using the same method as described above.

The retractable coiled toy can also be used as a fashion accessory. This is accomplished by grasping the retractable coiled toy, separating at least some coils of the coiled section; and placing the coiled section about a body part or an article of clothing. The slinger toy may be used as a key ring, with the key **30** looped through one end of the slinger toy so that the key **30** resides on the coil, while the other end of the slinger **1** is secured about a belt loop **31** or some other appropriate apparel, such that the slinger toy is attached to the clothes. The slinger toy **1** may also be attached to a zipper **50**, by sliding the coil material through the opening **51** in the handle **52** of the zipper **50**. The slinger toy can then be used to hang tags **54** or sky tickets to the zipper **50**. As shown in figure 9, the slinger can also be attached to the nose **40**, by either putting the bridge of the nose between two coils, or by

putting the septum of the nose between two coils. The coiled section may be wrapped around a pony tail **11**, at least one ear **12** or earlobe **13** of a person to form an ear attachment, around an ankle **14** to form a ankle bracelet **15**. Separation of the coils allows for the ease in positioning the slinger toy **1** onto the object or body part in question.

Many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood within the scope of the appended claims the invention may be protected otherwise than as specifically described.

What I claim is:

1) A flexible, retractable coiled toy, comprising:

a single, unitary piece of material, said material having memory, said coiled toy comprising:

a coiled section; and

a handle section, said handle section being integral with said coiled section, said handle section extending outwardly from the coiled section.

2) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coiled section ranges in length from about 2 and 3/4 inches to about ^{eight}~~six~~ inches.

3) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 2, wherein said coiled section ranges in length from about three inches to about four inches.

4) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coil section has a diameter ranging from about 1/4 inch in diameter to about 1 inch.

5) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said handle is a straight piece.

6) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 5, wherein said handle ranges in length from about 3 1/2 inches to about 6 1/2 inches.

7) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coiled toy is brightly colored.

8) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coiled toy has words printed along the length of the coils.

9) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coiled toy is used as a fashion accessory.

10) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 9, wherein said coiled toy is attached to a zipper handle as a fashion accessory.

11) The flexible retractable coiled toy of claim 1, wherein said coiled toy is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, metal, and plastics having memory.

12) A method for using a retractable coiled toy as a lasso, comprising:

picking up the retractable coiled toy, said retractable coiled toy comprising a single, unitary piece of material, said material having memory, a coiled section; and a handle section, said handle section being integral with said coiled section;

grasping the handle with one hand;

twirling the coiled section by the handle so that the coiled section expands outward; and

then positioning the coiled section by twirling the coiled section such that a middle part of the coiled section wraps around the object being lassoed.

13) The method for using the retractable coiled toy of claim 12, wherein said object being

lassoed is a finger.

14) The method for using the retractable coiled toy of claim 12, further comprising placing a wrist in the path of the coiled section being twirled, such that when said coiled section connects with said wrist, said retractable coiled toy forms a bracelet about said wrist.

15) The method for using the retractable coiled toy of claim 12, further comprising moving said handle angularly to the coiled section as said coiled section wraps around said object being lassoed, such that said coil section is locked in around said object being lassoed by intertwining with itself.

16) The method for using the retractable coiled toy of claim 12, further comprising using said retractable coiled toy to capture items in the air.

17) A method of using a retractable coiled toy as a fashion accessory, comprising:

picking up the retractable coiled toy, said retractable coiled toy comprising a single, unitary piece of material, said material having memory, a coiled section; and a handle section, said handle section being integral with said coiled section;

grasping the retractable coil toy;

separating at least some coils of the coiled section; and

placing said coiled section about a body part.

18) The method of using said retractable coiled toy of claim 17, wherein said retractable coiled toy is wrapped around a pony tail.

19) The method of using said retractable coiled toy of claim 17, wherein said at least some coils of said retractable coiled toy of said retractable coiled toy are positioned around at least one earlobe of a person to form an ear attachment.

20) The method of using said retractable coiled toy of claim 17, wherein said retractable coiled toy is used as an ankle bracelet.

21) A method of using a retractable coiled toy to catch an object, comprising
picking up the retractable coiled toy, said retractable coiled toy comprising a single, unitary piece of material, said material having memory, a coiled section; and a handle section, said handle section being integral with said coiled section;
grasping the retractable coil toy;
twirling the coiled section by the handle so that the coiled section expands outward; and
then positioning the coiled section by twirling the coiled section such that a middle part of the coiled section wraps around the object being lassoed

ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses a retractable coiled toy, made of a material having a memory, which has a handle integral with the coil or body of the toy. The slinger is preferably made out of polyurethane, a coiled steel, other plastics or some other material which has memory. The present invention discloses a number of methods for using the coiled toy. The Slinger can be used to wrap around the wrist, like a bracelet. In another use, the slinger may be used as a lasso.

Fig 1

6

14

20

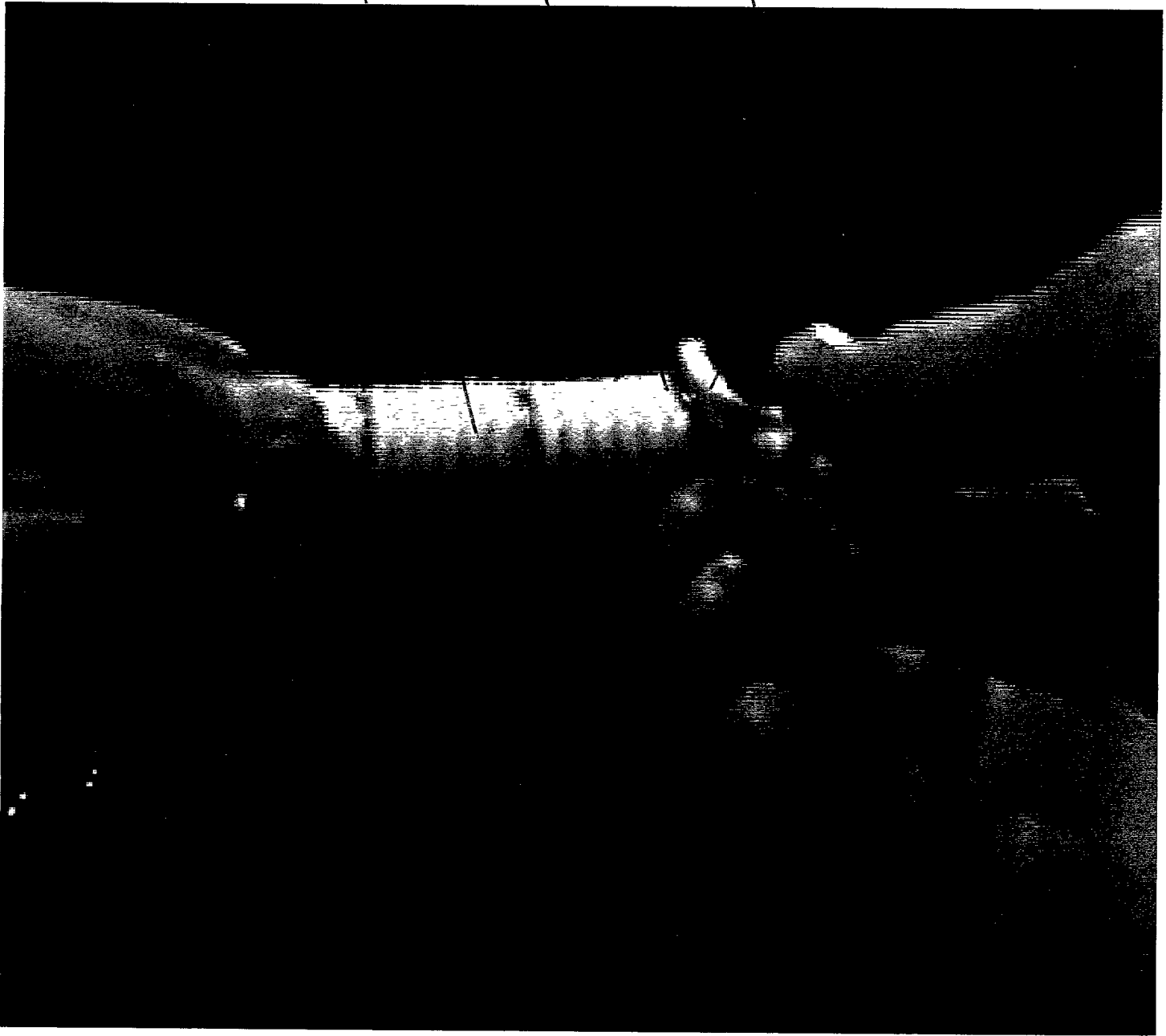


Fig 2

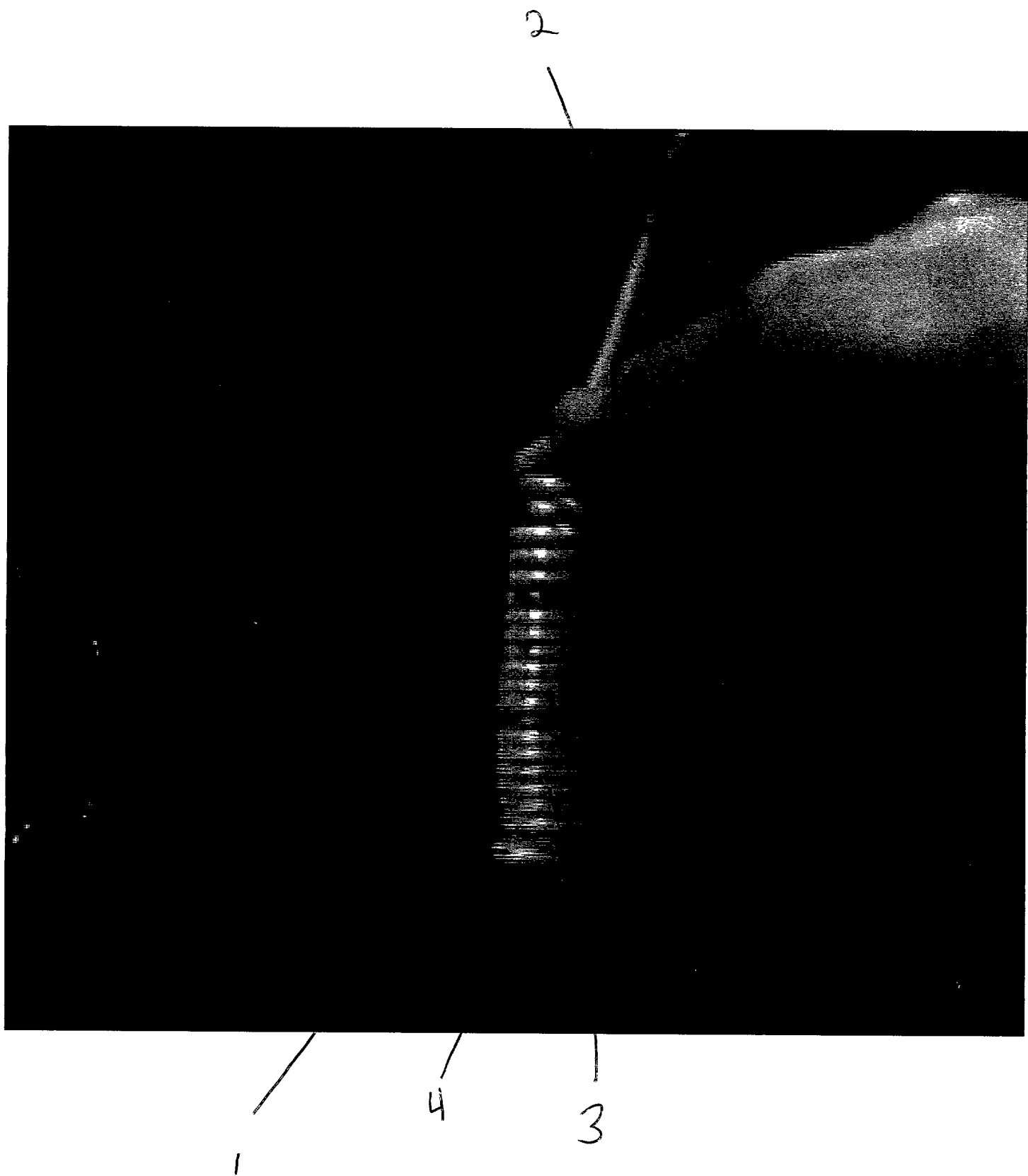


FIG 1 3



1

2

3

4

FIG ② 4

10



Fig 5



3

1

2

9

10

Fig 6

2

6

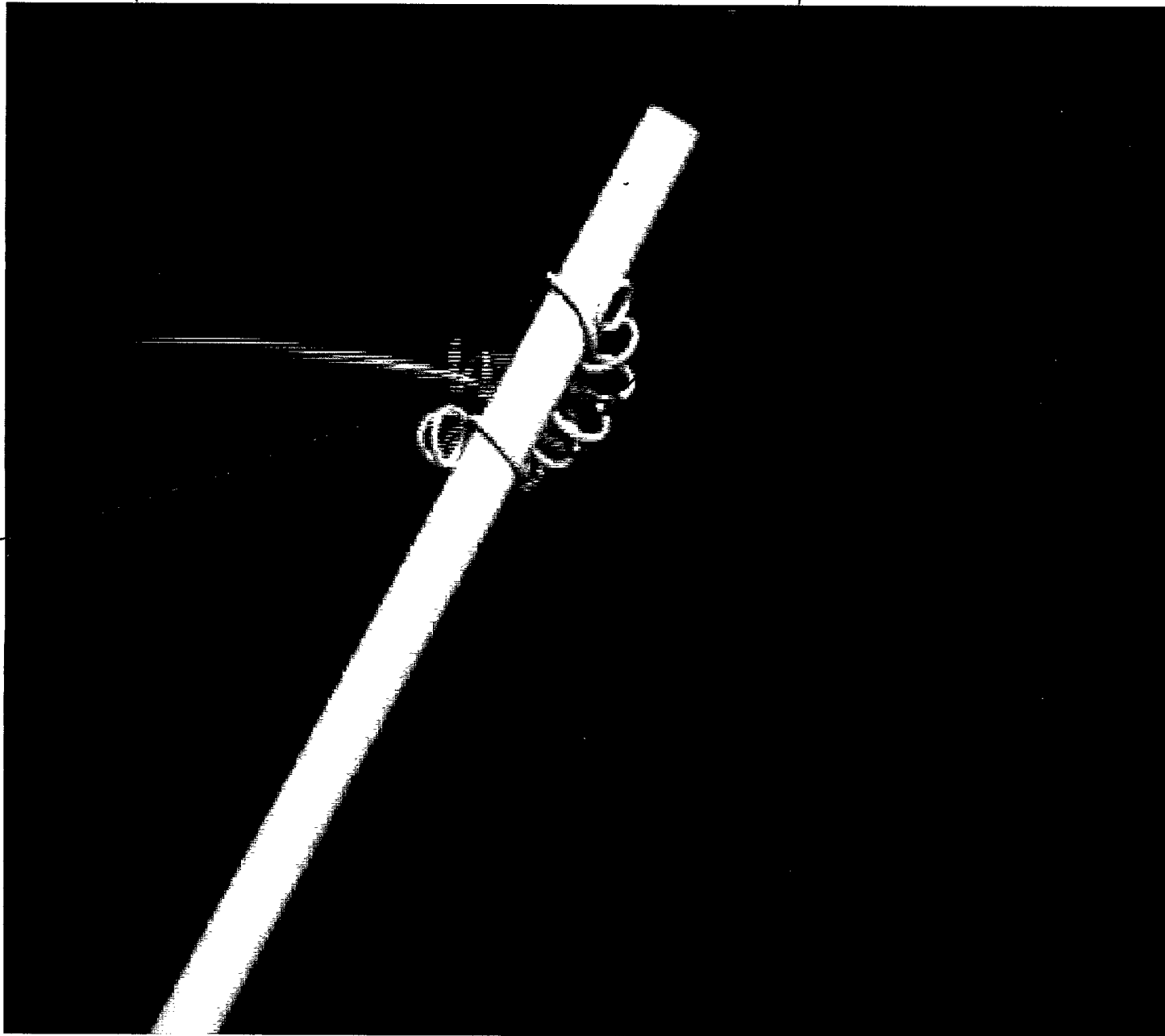


Fig 7

12



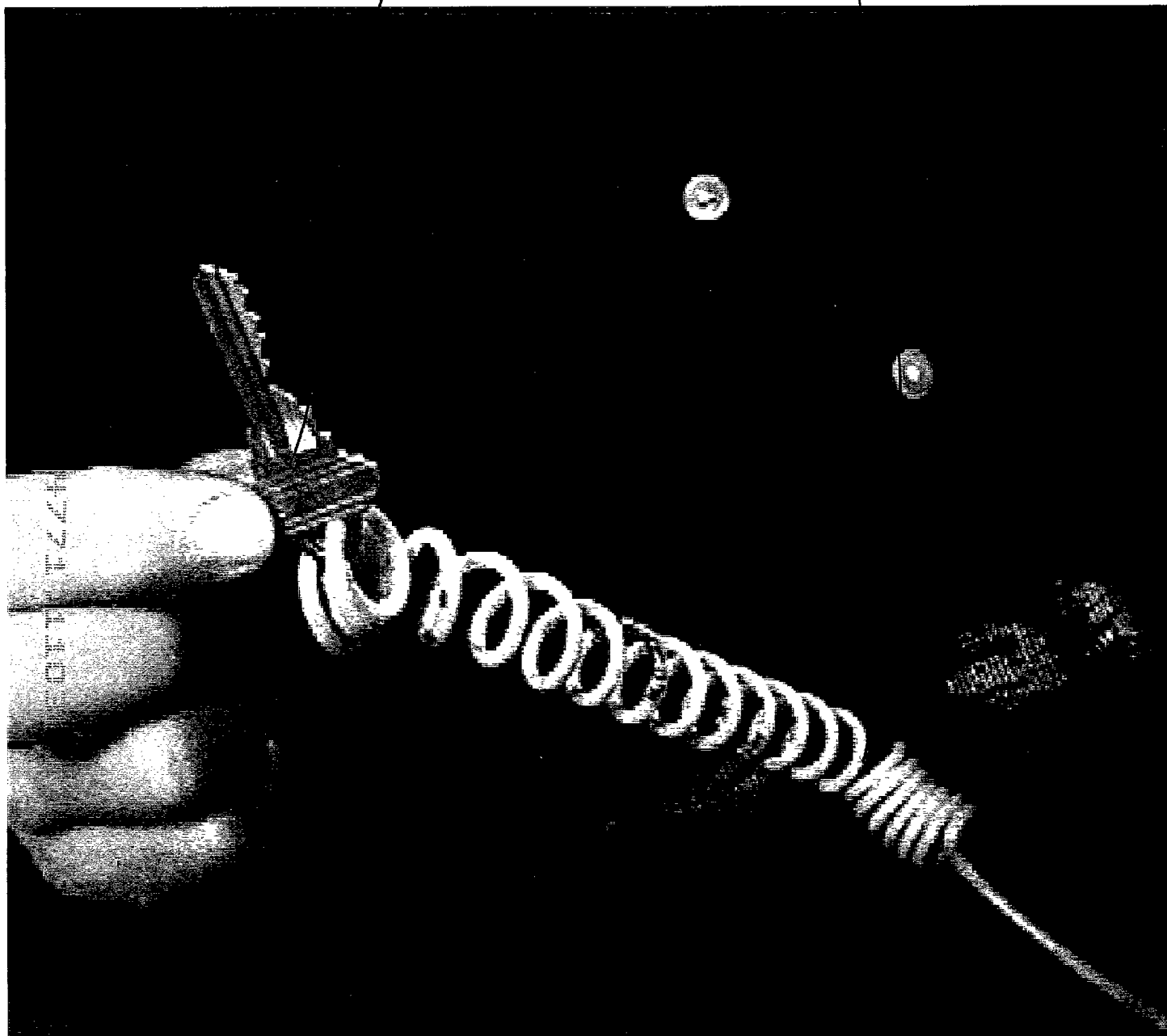
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1

13

2

Fig 8



FASHION (B)

Fig 9

40



FASHION (A)

Fig 10

50
52
51



54

Fig 12

1
14



Fig 11

11
1

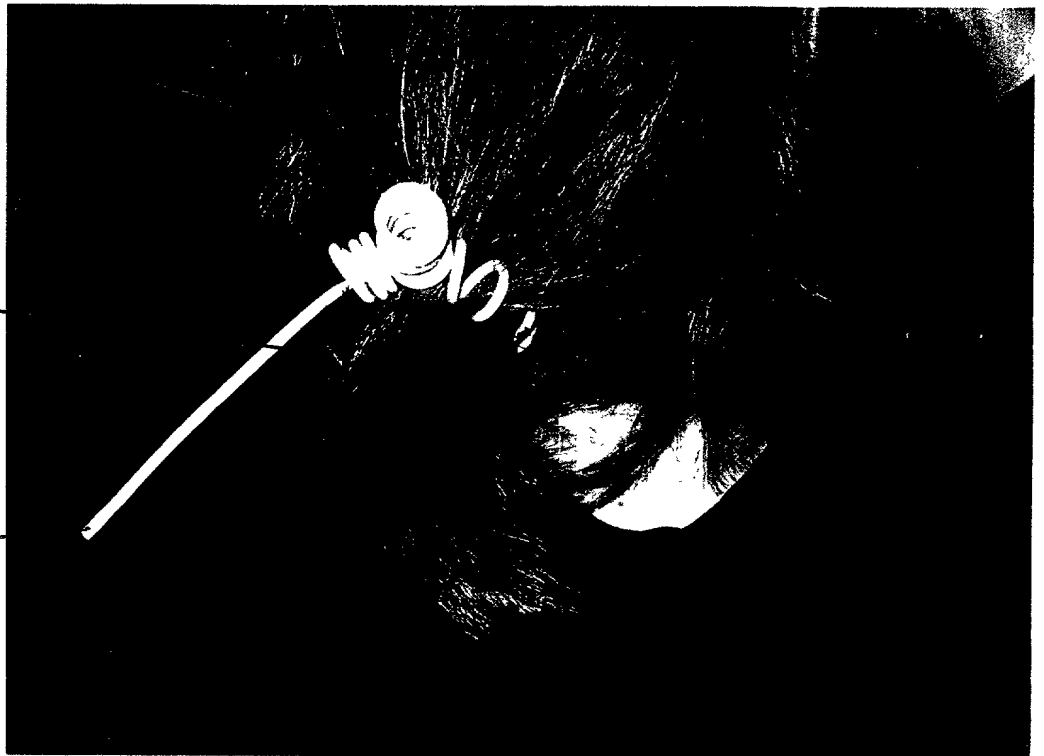


Fig 13



Dkt. No. _____

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A FLEXIBLE TOY, the specification of which:

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto ☐ being filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____ and
was amended on _____
(if applicable)

COILED LASSO

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Priority Claimed
_____ (NUMBER)	_____ (COUNTRY)
_____ (DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this applications:

(APPLICATION SERIAL NO.)	(FILING DATE)	(STATUS)
_____	_____	(PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventors, We hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

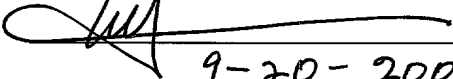
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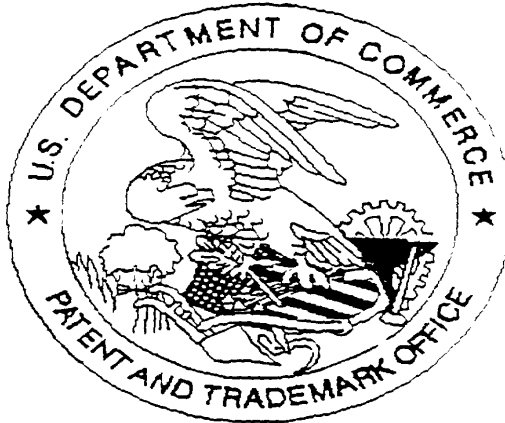
Jonathan E. Grant
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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's signature			
Date of signature	<u>9-20-2000</u>		
Residence	<u>Madison</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>USA</u>
	CITY	STATE OR PROVINCE	COUNTRY
Citizenship	<u>U.S.A.</u>		
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